REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Benzoni (US 5,416,668). Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Benzoni (US 5,416,668). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled without prejudice and replaced with claims 15-37 to clarify applicant's claimed invention; not based upon the art cited by the examiner.

Independent claims 15, 26 and 37 are believed to be novel over Benzoni. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Benzoni fails to disclose a die-cast shielding cage having either integral or integrated mounting tails. In fact, Benzoni discloses a shielding member made of a nonconductive material (col. 2,1. 26-28) which comprises mounting posts integrally molded with the housing (col. 2,1. 65-66). According to the teaching of Benzoni, to provide shielding, surfaces of the nonconductive housing are uniformly plated with an electrically conductive material via a plating process (col. 3,1. 29-32). The present claims (as well as claim 1 as originally filed) are directed to a die-cast shielding cage. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Benzoni of a die-cast shielding cage. The features of the claims are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art.

Independent claims 15, 26 and 37 are also novel over Harting et al. (GB 2303258 A). Harting discloses a connector having a housing made of high-purity zinc casting alloy wherein said housing is provided with integrally formed pins. However,

Harting fails to disclose unambiguously that the die-cast shielding cage comprises flexible mounting tails capable to provide relief of shear stress or pull/push forces developing as a result of the difference of thermal expansion coefficient between the circuit board and the die cast shielding cage.

The problem to be solved by the present invention is to provide a shielding cage that is easy to shape and which is securely mountable on a circuit board.

To this end, it is proposed a die-cast shielding cage having integrated or integral flexible mounting tails. As described in the specification, with the mounting tails integrated to the shielding, by using die cast material, more complex shapes can be implemented in the shielding cage so as the mounting tails can be easily integrated by providing a specific receiving structure. In addition, by making the mounting tails flexible, this provides relief for shear stress developing during soldering or reflow process due to the difference of thermal expansion coefficient between the cage and the circuit board material.

It is submitted that the skilled person would not have considered the cited references insofar as they do not address the above-mentioned problem. Indeed, the problems in Benzoni and Harting are directed to the provision of a low cost technique for providing a shielding cage and, therefore, are clearly not related to the provision of shielding cage that is easy to shape and which can be effectively soldered. Further, in the event that the skilled man had looked to the documents, he would not arrived at the present claimed invention since,

contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Benzoni does not teach or suggest that the mounting tails are flexible to provide relief of shear stress and pull/push forces developing as a result of the difference of thermal expansion coefficient between the circuit board and the die cast shielding cage.

It is therefore considered that the claimed invention is new and inventive over the cited prior art.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686) Date 10/20/06

Customer No.: 29683
Harrington & Smith, LLP
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400

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